



RECAP:

We live in a consumeristic society that thrives on accumulation. We often think that happiness will be ours to grasp if we have more - whether we're looking for more money, more time, more opportunity, or more social media followers. However, as we strive to gain more, our hearts are never satisfied. We become inward-focused and selfish. Our souls deteriorate when we build our identity on what we have rather than who Jesus is.

This doesn't mean that created things, like money or material goods, are inherently bad. This simply means that we're intended to worship the Creator rather than what has been created. True satisfaction is only found in Jesus. Only when we truly love God can we learn to love ourselves and our neighbors, as well as learn to steward what we have correctly.

We can't hoard our way into happiness; happiness is knowing Jesus and becoming more like Him. We're invited to stop running towards empty happiness and rest in the righteousness of Christ. As we surrender our lives, Jesus makes us righteous so we can live righteously.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Think of something you're grateful for. How does this created thing point you to the uncreated Creator?
- Read Matthew 5:6 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. The more we crave the righteousness of Jesus, the happier we become. What does the righteousness of Jesus look like? How do we grow our understanding and mirroring of His righteousness?
- Statistics show that an inward-focused life leads us to become miserable. Is there any area of your life in which you find yourself to be continuously inward-focused? How can you surrender this to Jesus?
- Think of the happiest person you know - not just on the outside but exemplifying a deeply rooted happiness. In what ways do you see the work of Christ shine out of them? Let them know their love of Jesus has encouraged you.
- Read Psalm 63:1-7. Pray this psalm aloud. Why does God tell us to find satisfaction in Him rather than created things?